

A
CRITICAL ENQUIRY
INTO THE
ANCIENT AND MODERN MANNER
OF TREATING
THE DISEASES
OF THE
URETHRA.

WITH AN IMPROVED
METHOD OF CURE.

BY JESSE FOOT,

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*Ut vetustis novitatem, novis auctoritatem, obsoletis nitorem,
obscuris lucem, dubiis fidem, — darem.*

PLIN. in Præf. Hist. Natural.

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PREFACE.

I THINK myself obliged to the Public for the confidence and encouragement they have bestowed on me, since I made them a tender of my services in the former edition of my Critical Enquiry into the Nature and Cure of Urethral Complaints, by which I am flattered, that a steady and diligent perseverance to any particular object in

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my profession will meet with a due return ; and they judge wisely who have said, that to arrive at a perfect knowledge of any single branch in science is of more use to society than a general smattering in the whole: not that I wish the profession should be subdivided ; but I assert, that it is commendable in any one, where he finds a defect and obscurity in a part of any one branch, there to employ his whole force of attention, and to supply the deficiency by minute application and observation: this will be a means of increasing the power and importance of the whole.

Surgery has undergone many revolutions ; but notwithstanding the vast
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stride to perfection that has been made in it within these fifty years, there are many instances where the professor can only be a compassionate spectator of an incurable case, his knowledge but serves him to draw the melancholy conclusion, that so far he can go, but no farther. Here is the inroad by which ignorant pretenders creep into a community; they make their attack upon the minds of the incurables, the credulous, and the desponding, and like leeches never quit their hold until they have drained the constitution, with the purse,

It is astonishing to me, how men in their senses can apply to such; have they

they a greater claim to science or literature who have studied neither? Is there more security in applying to a foreigner that we know not of, than to one whose education we may be informed of; whose connections we may learn? Is it likely that an adventurer of no fortune will deal out his services cheaper than one surrounded by his family and friends, and that has every obligation to be honest? From whence arises this prevailing quackery; this flock of adventurers? Is it because a regular educated man, graduated in his profession through all its extensive and expensive stages, fears to stand forth, lest he be ranked in the same class with those I have been describing? I could dwell

dwell longer upon this evil, because I have seen its effect; yet some of these are countenanced by magistrates and editors.



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INTO THE
ANCIENT AND MODERN MANNER

U R E T H R A.

THE diseases of the Urethra have been, since the introduction of the Gonorrhœa into Europe, productive of such alarming consequences to the patients, and brought on them such scenes of misery and distress, as the sufferer alone is equal to describe. Many of the ancients exerted their endeavours to remove the dreadful symptoms attending a suppression of urine, but unfortunately the remedies they laid down carried a terror with them equal to the disease. The torture of a caustic blindly applied up the urinal canal, the hæmorrhages brought on by rudely piercing the obstruction, the spasms excited from violent irri-

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tations, besides other imprudences, even to penetrating the partition betwixt the urethra and anus, are proceedings, which boldness itself could not authorize, and humanity forbade. From the earliest hour of these diseases to the present day, the Surgeon has been obliged to rely on his own ingenuity, and to proceed in the dark, for want of sufficient preceded rules to direct him in effecting a cure. The Bougie is talked of as a remedy in general terms; there is no doubt but it is a remedy, and a very radical one, when once the grand object is surmounted, that of getting over the obstructions in the Urethra, and of gaining a passage into the bladder. It is to effect this where the Surgeon is often bewildered and disappointed, at a period when his credit and reputation are eminently at stake. This difficulty arises from an error in the present general practice, wherefore not all the opportunities that hospitals afford, have as yet enabled the practitioner to act with a degree of confident authority, or have they served to remove that mysterious veil that at present obscures the application of the bougie. It is one thing to glide it up a smooth sound Urethra, and another to overcome obstruction after obstruction; and who will say, where there is a callous stricture or carnosity close to the neck of the bladder, how long

long the bougie will be gaining a passage over it, or that it will be made to pass at all? It shall be my task to endeavour in this Treatise to remove the difficulty of the first introduction of the bougie, which I hope will be a means of drawing the attention of others to a vigorous perseverance in overcoming a complaint the most distressing to the surgeon, the most dangerous to the patient. Almost every author, who has treated of the Urinal Obstruction, hath agreed to its being brought on in general from a former virulent gonorrhœa, though there is no reason to doubt but that exceptions may be found to the contrary, rare as they are: besides the lodgment of stone or gravel, the Urethra is liable to other diseases; the wonder is, that they are not more common, when one considers the delicacy of its structure and the number of glands of which it is composed. Many reasons are assigned for the obstructions produced through a former virulent gonorrhœa: the advocates for a cure by injections condemn the treatment of those who, by rejecting topical applications, spin out the disorder beyond a reasonable time, by which the canal becomes relaxed, the excretory ducts yield an increased discharge, or ulcers are formed on the orifices of them, or strictures from the callous edges of these ulcers, which remain even after

they heal, or caruncles, or bands crossing the Urethra, or the other train of symptoms hereafter to be described. On the other hand, those who deny the safety of a cure by injections, recoil the blame thrown upon them, by asserting that the urinal catastrophe derives its origin from injections variously compounded, and at various stages applied; by denying the propriety of offering any sort to so delicate a part as the Urethra naturally is, made more so by the state of inflammation it then undergoes, when even an injection of warm water excites pain, and when whatever may tend specifically to destroy the virus, must destroy its own effect by heightening the inflammation.

From time and experience I am convinced, that the only solid and rational mode of curing a Clap is by injection; and it is no argument with me, that because ignorance and quackery may do mischief by their injections, that injections are improper. No man, I trust, who has the least claim to the character of a rational being, will pretend to assert, that because he was hurt by injections by one, that they should not be used by any; who condemns medicines in general, because an individual hath been poisoned by arsenic?

I will

I will endeavour to define what a gonorrhoea is, although it is somewhat deviating from my present intention.—A gonorrhoea is an irritation on the internal coat of the Urethra produced by venereal virus from contact—Any instrument charged with this venereal virus and applied to the orifice of the penis, whether the instrument be of an animate or inanimate property, will convey the infection. As soon as the infection is received and lodged on the surface of the Urethra, the Urethra becomes irritated and inflamed; the consequence is, that that mucus which was in the habit of health discharged merely in so parsimonious a portion as only to sheath and defend the Urethra from the acrimony of urine, is in two days, or thereabout, so much increased as to shew itself in that increased discharge, and the more the surface of the Urethra is inflamed, so will that discharge be promoted. Hence it appears, that the running from a Clap is nothing more than increased mucus produced from irritating virus.

Without going large into the question, for I must confess I have not patience to do so—It can no longer be a doubt which is the most preferable method of cure—It can no longer be a doubt, whether it is better to apply an injection
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to the part immediately and locally affected, and by destroying the infectious virus which produced the inflammable symptoms, put an end to the complaint at once, which will certainly be the issue, or to suffer the complaint to spread its influence, whilst the stomach is to be stuffed with pills and electuaries, which must in the end, in order to be effectual, operate on the Urethra, however late and uncertain. In the mean while an opportunity is given to the virus to extend its influence and enlarge its havock.—After having thus far digressed, I shall leave those who choose to think otherwise to be revenged upon themselves.

I come now to give a short anatomical description of the urinal canal, in order to form a more distinct and clear idea of those several obstructions, which, when formed, cause a suppression of the urine, often divert the stream of it, and by which it makes a way through some fistulous channel, continually laying waste and committing destruction on the parts along its unnatural rout. The inside of the urinal canal is covered by an exquisite fine and delicate membrane, very susceptible, and full of capillary blood.

blood-vessels; on the surface of this membrane are found a great many little orifices, oblong, known generally by the name of *lacunæ*, various in their sizes: these *lacunæ* are the excretory ducts of as many small glands spread up and down the urethral substance: they pass into the spongy substance of the Urethra to the convex side of the internal urethral membrane, and open obliquely from behind forward into the great canal; their edges are of a semi-lunar or crescent form, on account of their oblique opening. There are two of these *lacunæ* described by Morgagni, which are more considerable than the rest, situated near the glans penis; the one under the *frœnum*, the other near the *fossula navicularis*. The gland near the *frœnum*, I have often seen inflame and come to suppuration, discharging itself externally by two orifices on each side of the *frœnum*. Farther up in the Urethra there are three considerable *lacunæ*, described by that ingenious and minute researcher Cowper; two of these *lacunæ* or ducts make a considerable rout through the spongy substance of the Urethra, directing their course to two glandular bodies the size of a horse-bean, of an oval figure, flat, and situated on the two convex sides of the spongy urethral substance near the ends of the *crura penis*; these two glands are covered entirely by the muscles

muscles called *acceleratores urinæ*; the third duct leads to the gland smaller than the two described, placed in the spongy substance of the Urethra, near the curvatures which the canal describes under the pubis, and often opens by two orifices in the Urethra; in the cavity of the Urethra, towards its extremity, from without, inwards, several things offer very essential, and that demand our strictest attention. The *prostratæ* imply a plurality of glands, though only one in reality, of a shape like a chesnut, situated between the bulbous part of the Urethra and bladder, having its basis towards the bladder, and apex towards the Urethra; it yields a limpid, glutinous secretion, which is conveyed into the Urethra by several excretory ducts. At the bottom of the urethral canal, lying within the prostrate, and near the neck of the bladder, an oblong ovular eminence offers, terminating forward in a point called *caput gallinaginis*, or *verumontanum*. This portion of substance is commonly perforated by one, sometimes two or three orifices, which are the excretory ducts of the *vesiculæ seminales*; there is a valve to each of these excretory ducts. The *vesiculæ seminales* are two bodies appearing like little bladders, situated under the bladder of urine, and on each side the prostrate;

prostrate; each of them can be drawn into one single duct: they discharge into the Urethra, by the orifice or orifices above-mentioned, on the side of the caput gallinaginis, or verumontanum.

In searching into antiquity for the origin of this disease, I find the ancients give the date of the urethral obstructions, not immediately after the first appearance of the virulent gonorrhoea. In the Venetian collection of the several writers on the venereal disease, in which are included no less than fifty-nine authors, the most ancient of all is Nicolaus Leonicensus of Vicentia, Anno 1497, an author who lived at the period of the first introduction of this disease into Europe by Columbus's fleet, and two years before the siege of Naples. There are from his time of publication to that of Johannes Baptista Montanus, no less than thirty-three authors, who wrote on the same disorder, and are yet silent of the description either of a gonorrhoea, or any other disease of the Urethra. This Johannes Baptista Montanus of Verona wrote on the Lues Venerea in the year 1550, and speaks of a gonorrhoea which appeared, among many other venereal symptoms, on a German nobleman who had put himself under

his care. After him, to the time of Alexander Trojanus Petronius of Castile, who wrote on the venereal disease in the year 1565, there appears in this collection no mention of diseases in the Urethra, although there are nineteen authors, whose productions are dated betwixt the former and latter period. This author says, “ When a suppression of urine is
 “ occasioned by the ulcerous sordities, or a
 “ caruncle in the Urethra, emollient and de-
 “ tergent injections must be used ; all very
 “ sharp things are to be avoided, and even the
 “ use of those that are but moderately acrimo-
 “ nious is not to be long continued : in the
 “ mean time, while the urinary passage re-
 “ mains obstructed, all attempts made by di-
 “ uretics to promote the expulsion of urine
 “ are very dangerous. If injections have been
 “ used to no purpose, the Urethra must be
 “ cleared by a wax-candle, or some such in-
 “ strument. In case of a caruncle, gentle
 “ corrosives are to be introduced in a dry form,
 “ or by injection, such as one scruple of pre-
 “ cipitate with two ounces of barley-water :
 “ this is an effectual remedy in such a case,
 “ and operates with the least pain of any cor-
 “ rosive that I know of.” The idea this writer had of the disease of the Urethra, and the
 mode

mode of treatment he laid down, perhaps, when the reader comes candidly to consider them, will not be found to vary much from the present usage, however distant the period was, and however unexperienced the practitioner must have been at the first appearance of a symptom totally foreign, and to elucidate the description of which no light had hitherto been thrown.

Ambrose Parry describes the caruncle to be generated either in consequence of a sharp, acrimonious humour flowing from the prostrate, or by a venereal infection, separating their treatment and manner of cure: in order to remove the first obstacle, he advises a total abstinence from venery, cautions against acrid, corroding injections, and depends on the cure by emollients in the shape of fomentations, unctions, and fumigations; and by inducing the caruncle to bleed, by repeatedly passing up the catheter. But if it be occasioned by the malignity of the lues venerea, he says, that the surgeon will lose his labour, if the patient does not observe a diet, such as is prescribed to those in the lues venerea, taking internally the Guaiacum, and anointing the perinæum and whole penis with the antivenereal ointment. (Of the necessity of antivenereal remedies taken internally for

disorders in the Urethra, I shall speak hereafter.) He begins his attack upon the caruncle by lacerating with a sharp-pointed silver wire, concealed in the catheter, and passed up the Urethra, and by afterwards applying such topical remedies as may effect a cure by destroying the fungus, all tending to a caustic quality. He describes the method used by the surgeons at Montpellier, who prepared a corrosive ointment, spread over very fine rags, wrapped it about a wax-candle, and thrust it into the Urethra; they afterwards drew out the candle, and left the end of the rag hanging out of the penis. Others made a wax-candle very slender, but with a stiff wick, the end of which was medicated with escharotics, which was worn until the caruncle was consumed; also rods of lead thrust into the passage as thick as it would suffer, which served to dilate it, and keep the ulcers from corrupting each other: these rods of lead were besmeared with quicksilver, and kept in day and night. Lastly, epulotic injections, for drying away any humidity that distilled from the penis.

Wiseman, who was serjeant surgeon to King Charles the Second, treats very largely on the diseases of the Urethra, and has been particularly

larly attended to by most of the English authors, who have written since his time on the lues venerea. There is no reason to doubt but this man took a great deal of pains to improve the art of surgery in general; he was esteemed and imitated by his cotemporaries, and recommended to posterity as the best English surgical writer at that time, barbarous as he was. Unfortunately for him, he sets out wrong, and defines a virulent gonorrhœa to be an involuntary emission of semen occasioned by venom contracted from an unclean woman: "I know," says he, with a cunning sort of assurance, "that Bartholinus hath made a gonorrhœa to be nothing else but an ulcer of the prostate, which opinion is sufficiently confuted by Dr. Wharton, who gives him the insoluble objection of the tumour of the testicles, which happeneth always upon the untimely stopping of it." Then he throws in an old proverb, "By the pounding up of the water, it is easy to find which way the current came." I own the last observation to be a digression, and foreign to my purpose; but I was struck with the absurdity of his theory, and could not help paying it the compliment he has done to Bartholinus's. One would have thought it might have been puzzling to this author to have

have devised a cause for the urethral obstructions, as he had at the first onset given a fallacious description of the virulent gonorrhœa; but his ingenuity in some measure makes atonement for his errors, and however wrong he was in the cause, his definition of the effect at least marks him as a man for resources. He ascribes the diseases of the Urethra to a caruncle and carnosity, and makes the latter to be a consequence from the neglect of the former. He says, “ Caruncles are a sort of loose flesh arising in the Urethra, frequently in the time of a gonorrhœa, by reason of an erosion made by that virulent and acrid matter; but if (says he) at an early stage the cure be neglected, some drops of urine, or in coitû, the seed remaining amongst these caruncles, heateth the part, and increaseth their growth, and not only renders them callous, but at length the whole ductus, and then it is called a carnosity, which straitening the passage, stops the virulent matter in its motion, whereby it is forced back to the feminals, in which case the testicles for the most part do suffer.”

This great author describes with difficulty the urethral obstructions, as if he really felt
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an imperfection in accounting for them ; the observations are related like a communication of what he is rather doubtful of the propriety, than as those that give an assurance of a doctrine justifiable, and warranted by reason. If he could not overcome the obstructions by means of a wax-candle and emollients, he conveyed caustics to the part by means of a canula : if after overcoming one obstruction, another offered, and the canula could not pass up to it, he made use of the leaden probe ; in his own words, “ He anointed first, passed the probe “ up to the caruncle, and then by pressing on “ it broke it off ; you must expect (says he) “ a bleeding, and it is not done without pain, “ the Urethra being of exquisite sense ; that “ pain is sometimes accompanied with rigor “ and fever : if a flux of a virulent matter be “ accompanying the stranguria, the last remedy is salivation.” The same author recites afterwards many cases, some of which terminated happily, though amongst them there were severities put in practice, which at this time would not altogether have been thought warrantable ; particularly the case in his tenth observation, where his friend, Mr. Edward Mullins, and he dilated the Urethra throughout the whole passage to the neck of the bladder, to

no purpose, as the urine never afterwards passed per urethram, but flowed from a puncture made previous to this general operation in perinæo, close to the neck of the bladder. I shall not attempt to descant upon the theory and manner Mr. Wiseman treated the diseases of the Urethra; it is sufficient at such a date, as in the reign of Charles the Second, that we have so exact a mode laid down by one who appears to have been in full practice, and whose merit, one would presume, had elevated him to a sphere, where he profited from the beams of royal favour. It is a certain fact, as the art of surgery in general improves, the severities of it are softened; and we hope, that a still less demand will be made for instruments, as it advances further to perfection. In all countries where the arts and sciences have arrived to a degree of excellence, the structure of them has been founded upon the candour of their ancient researchers; they have been as much indebted to those who have related their miscarriages, in any sort of attempt to the improvement of knowledge, as where the success of others hath proved exemplary, by opening a path for the advancement of an art whereby it has with rapidity arrived to eminence. The man of genius not only makes an allowance
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for the defects of his ancestors, but turns them to his advantage, as the traveller, who is destined to a certain spot, consults with his map, in order, by a comparison of the different routs, to make choice of that which is the most pleasant, and gives him the readiest dispatch : their errors stand as marks of caution to the enquirer, as the rocks in the chart do to the mariner, not to be followed, but avoided. I would wish to make an eternal distinction in criticism betwixt the man that gives a history of plain truths, free of sinister views and deceptions, and him that endeavours to charm you into a persuasion, who omits the inconveniences attending his theory, and praises it, not because praise should follow, but by an imposition attaching a merit to it, in order that it may be more generally adopted, and to answer a purpose as mercenary as wicked.

That learned and great researcher into the human machine, Boerhaave, throughout his preface to the Aphrodisiacus, appears to be struck with astonishment at the hydra-headed symptoms of the lues venerea in general ; but he paints his prognostics from no part more tragical than that of the consequences of obstructions in the Urethra. The abilities, great-

ness of ingenuity, and indefatigable attention of this truly famous physician want no panegyrist, his works are the best, they speak for themselves: his candour was above all interest; he pointed his shafts at every thing that was hurtful to the animal body, and if they were now-and-then glanced awry, we may truly say of him as the philosophers do of Des Cartes, that he was great even in his errors. He makes four species of gonorrhœa, of what we now-a-days would term one, only attended by aggravated symptoms of virulency, produced on the Urethra by time, neglect, bad management, &c. “ There is a fourth gonorrhœa (says he) “ which differs in shape from the rest; for “ after the virulent matter has, by the passages already described, reached the prostratæ, it wastes their substance, and melts it “ down into a very plentiful mass of virulent “ pus. This disease sometimes takes its rise “ from other gonorrhœas long continued, but “ chiefly from often repeated ones. It discovers itself by tumours upon the perinæum, “ frequently by a very troublesome ischuria, “ a plentiful discharge of sub-putrid pus, and “ a suppuration of those parts hardly to be “ stopped. A malignant, incurable ulcer very “ often breaks out upon the perinæum; some-
“ times

“ times too the parts all round the situation of
 “ the prostratæ are most miserably ulcerated,
 “ by which means the neighbouring parts are
 “ destroyed, and become a very shocking spec-
 “ tacle. But one of the most common symp-
 “ toms of this disease is, that frequently those
 “ miserable patients, all at once, and without
 “ any manifest cause, are seized with a sup-
 “ pression of urine; whence they are tortured
 “ with a great many painful and fruitless at-
 “ tempts to make water, while at the same
 “ time there is no admission for the catheter to
 “ relieve them that way. At last, after a long
 “ torment, some quantity of pus on a sudden
 “ makes its way out of the orifice of the Ure-
 “ thra; a little after which the urine is dis-
 “ charged without difficulty, till the same
 “ mischief returns again. I have sometimes
 “ seen this disease, and you cannot but be sen-
 “ sible what a hard matter it is to accomplish
 “ a cure. Here salivation has its place, and
 “ here all the remedies recommended against
 “ the forementioned kinds of gonorrhœa must
 “ be very diligently applied.”

The theory of the above learned author being
 from the beginning an hypothesis of his own,
 we shall gain but little improvement from his

method of cure: he supposed that the subcutaneous fatty cells were the nidus of this disease, that the membrana adiposa was distributed all over the body, even to the privities, eye-lids, &c. Therefore, from an opinion of this sort, it is not to be wondered that he does not even hint at the use of bougies, or thinks of any consequence topical applications. His confidence was built on those remedies that would empty the adipose cells, and by evacuating the fat they contained, radically extirpate the venereal virus; and therefore, however justly elegant and pathetic he has described the symptoms of the urethral diseases, yet we cannot look up to him for a remedy. Let it then suffice, that such a description of the disease from Boerhaave stands upon record as a difficulty for those of a future age to call forth all their attention to deliberate on and remove.

Dionis, a surgeon of the first eminence at Paris, in his demonstration of chirurgical operations, page 146, enters into a discussion of urethral obstructions, and seems to attribute all the cause to callous scars which straighten the passage of the urine, diminish the stream of it, and hinder the probe from passing up the

the canal. These scars, he says, are produced from one or more gonorrhœas, and their cure is performed by conducting a caustic to the diseased parts by means of a wax-candle, which will destroy the old callosity, remove the stricture, and give an opening for the wax-candle to pursue its rout into the bladder. The obstruction being overcome, the sore is to be healed, and a leaden probe continued until the passage becomes free and open. This famous author denies flatly the existence of a carnosity, and gives for a reason, that after many diligent observations, by opening bodies charged with being afflicted with this complaint, he had not met with one that really was so, nor had he met with any surgeon (worthy of credit) that ever affirmed to have seen one. I am sensible it could not have escaped the ingenuity of this great man, that it was very possible for a fungus to have existed in a living subject, which would not be discernible after death, had he been inclined to have favoured the theory, so common an observation as the the different appearances of the same fungi, before and after death, on any part of the human body, would not have been wanting to him. The truth of the matter seems to be, that the treatment of this disorder at that time, and

Since in Paris, has been in the hands of pre-
 tenders to nostrums, to which rotten part of
 the profession Dionis owed no good-will; nay,
 long before his time, he tells you of Jean Bap-
 tist Loyseau of Bourdeaux, who was called to
 Henry the Fourth to cure him of a carnosity,
 that he dressed him, and accordingly did cure
 him, and was rewarded with the post of chi-
 rurgeon to his Majesty. This story, says he,
 though very memorable, does not prove the
 existence of carnosities; it indeed discovers that
 Monsieur Loyseau acted the secret-monger and
 played the mountebank in publishing his per-
 formance, without mentioning either the means
 or remedies which he used; and as he was
 silent in the essential part, says he, I shall take
 the whole to be apocryphal. Upon the whole
 I am opinion, that what Dionis has said on
 this subject, has thrown neither light on the
 nature of the disease, or on the mode of cure;
 he contracts the cause to a simple callosity, and
 prescribes a remedy that, I humbly conceive,
 would rather aggravate than cure: it is to re-
 move a scar brought on by the venereal virus,
 by substituting one from a caustic; I think the
 reader will agree with me, when I say, that
 the cicatrix of a caustic will always be at least
 as contractile as that of a venereal ulcer; there-
 fore

fore the only essential that seems to be wanting in this case is a species of bougie, capable of passing over and dilating the obstruction, which, according to a very ingenious author, will lose of its power to contract in proportion as it is stretched or dilated.

When I begin speaking of Mons. Daran, I endeavour in a more especial manner to divest myself of all that partiality which in general prevails, either in a criticism on the conduct of a friend, or the theory of an author, as it is too apt to cast a false glare over their actions or productions, and to hurry him who pronounces upon them into a style of enthusiastic flattery or illiberal reflection. Such an author can be of no good consequence to the public; be he a man of abilities, he misleads much to their prejudice; be he otherwise, he degrades himself below the aim of criticism, and becomes worthless. Mons. Daran deserves praise and blame; praise, in having first formed the medicated bougie similar to what is now in use; blame, in having professed to perform with it more than reason or truth will allow. I would wish to make all allowance for Mons. Daran's pompous diction and pretensions to infallibility, because the fashion of his country

try and the obstacles of quackery, which are prevalent in France, require more forcible conviction amongst even the more rational part of them, than in England, where we are guided more by the laws of truth and reason, and where the sensible part at least can be satisfied with the possession of a remedy that will serve one good turn, without tacking to it an unlimited excellence in a catalogue of different cases, different in their nature. Mons. Daran performs as many feats with his bougie as Breslaw would with his cups and balls, and all to the *wonderful astonishment* of those who look on him; and with a sense of feeling peculiar to himself can determine, with the point of a bougie, the very nature and seat of a disease at the remotest part of the urethral canal, can effectually cure all ulcers and scirrhoties there, by the *suppurative* power of a bougie, which bougie he confesses to be throughout uniformly compounded of the same materials. In all ages there have been mysteries credited, when they could not be measured by reason, and this is an addition to the stock. I have tried Mons. Daran's bougies and those of Mr. Sharp, and know not to which to give the preference, so equal are they in their effect, and so deficient are both of them in overcoming

an obstruction in the Urethra on the first introduction; yet, as Mons. Daran was the first who well moulded a bougie into the shape now in use, it was undoubtedly an improvement and worthy of reward. All surgeons will allow, that Mons. Daran's or Mr. Sharp's bougies are preferable to the leaden probes which were formerly in use, and which have since been justly exploded: they allow that a piece of linen worked to a proper resistance, and at the same time to a proper pliability, and armed with a medicinal effect, is preferable to a metallic probe for the cure of urethral obstructions. This improvement is due to Mons. Daran, and though simple, not the less valuable; it was an instrument in his hands that gave him the preference over all his cotemporaries, and so far he was justifiable in keeping the secret within his own breast; nor will he be arraigned for the profit that has been derived from his invention: but when a man publishes abroad not only the grossest absurdities, but impossibilities, in the name of real facts, and in the same performance there is to be found (contradictory as it is) some new truths, and those of great value, it becomes the candid critic to winnow the chaff from the corn, that

the remaining stock, however small, may be more valuable and wholesome.

I can at the same time say, that Mons. Daran has merit in improving the bougie, and profit from it, whilst I can accuse him of assertions that do him no honour or credit. He says, that his bougie will act on a diseased Urethra, and not on a sound one; that it will produce a discharge from fungi or callosities in a diseased Urethra, when a delicate sound one will be insensible to its effect. He has published to this purpose: “ The operation of my remedy is conformable to this, the loose fungous flesh is by it melted down and suppurated, the sound remaining untouched. Let it not be imagined, that I attribute an intelligent power to it; if it acts on the diseased rather than on the sound parts, it is because the first is of such a nature as to be affected by the active particles of my remedy, whereas the latter is guarded against their action by the internal membrane of the Urethra; besides, the same active particles stir up and set in motion the virus, which generally remains clogged up and inactive in those fungous swellings; there is no wonder then that my remedy should act upon them
“ without

“ without having any effect on those which
 “ are in a sound state. This is proved beyond
 “ contradiction by an experiment which I will
 “ put in practice as often as desired: I will
 “ introduce one of my sounds into the Ure-
 “ thra of a healthy person, and will leave it
 “ there a sufficient time for it to act on the
 “ glandulous bodies of which it is composed;
 “ I will then remove it, and the keenest sight
 “ shall not be able to perceive upon it the
 “ least drop of foreign moisture; I will then
 “ immediately pass the same sound into a dis-
 “ eased Urethra, and in less time that it had
 “ remained in the sound one, it will be char-
 “ ged with a purulent matter, furnished by
 “ the diseased part of the Urethra.” In ano-
 “ ther place he says, “ It so far assists the con-
 “ tractile powers of the fibres, as by dissolving
 “ and setting afloat the hardened juices which
 “ are confined in the callous edges of ulcers,
 “ it enables them to clear themselves from
 “ them; but it does not act as bracers do, by
 “ strengthening and contracting them, but by
 “ melting down the juices imprisoned in the
 “ edges of the ulcers, or in the fungous or
 “ callous excrescences of the Urethra, which,
 “ as I said before, arise upon the ulcers, and

“ form upon them a sort of crust, which is
 “ the discharge of purulent matter.”

With regard to the tenderness and lenity of Mons. Daran's bougie towards a sound Urethra and effect on a diseased one, I do aver, that even one of wax passed up a sound Urethra, and continued there for a small space of time, will be charged with an additional secretion, merely as an heterogeneous body, however mild, and will, if repeated, continue so to irritate the part, as the more it be applied, the more will be that secretion; such will be the effect of any foreign substance passed up the urinal canal. I do not make this observation to decry the use of bougies, because this evil is very small in comparison to the good they do, but to convince Mons. Daran's advocates, that in this instance he is palpably wrong. If it is worth while to unravel the other mysteries concealed in the above quotation, for all seem to be mystical, I will give my opinion upon them in a few words: That as Mons. Daran's bougie is so confessedly harmless, and as it “ gradually melts down and sets afloat
 “ the hardened and confined juices in the cal-
 “ lous edges of ulcers,” it acts as all other lenient digestives; and hence we may account
 for

for the success of a mild digestive plaister in the shape of a bougie over the urethral obstructions: it acts on a carnosity by compression rather than otherways, by reducing the fungus so that the membrane of the Urethra (or what supplies the loss of it) may heal over and thereby bind it down; as we see daily the instance in a fore on the surface of the body, where there is a fungus, nothing will assist a cure more than pressure, and when once the artificial skin grows over, the fore is effectually healed; notwithstanding the carnosity will often prove obstinate, because the pressure may not be equal, or because some virulency may be remaining. It acts on the callous ulcer as a digestive plaister would on the surface of the body, and attention is only to be paid towards the effectually destroying the virus in order to perfect a cure. It acts on the contracted cicatrix merely from a counter-resistance, as is ingeniously demonstrated by Mr. Sharp, in his observation on chirurgical operations. Thus will one bougie very happily answer different intentions upon the most rational suppositions; I say happily, because it is not every man that is confessedly so adroit as Mons. Daran, and that when the obstruction is very far up in the Urethra, can determine at the first, or perhaps at all,

all, which of the several diseases he may have to encounter. But what shall I say to the scirrhusity of the prostrate gland, verumontanum, or the other glandular bodies? will the all-powerful bougie succeed here? The same bougie may assist, if it can be passed over the obstruction; but I believe the judicious practitioner will at the same time make use of a warm bath, or partial vapour of hot water; he will apply a mercurial friction as near outwardly to the part as possible, and be confident at the same time, that internal alteratives must be requisite to a cure, the bougie will only have a share in such a case: but Mons. Daran, if he practised this method, or a similar one, has forborn to speak of it, lest it should lessen the consequence of the bougie. I am afraid, that the judicious theorist will suspect with me upon the whole, that Mons. Daran has risked his reputation by an endeavour to elevate his subject and heighten its consequence; that he has thereby intoxicated his senses, and as Horace expresses it, *tollens vacuum plus nimio gloria verticem*, has left him defensible by none.

I should not do a good ancient author justice, if I was not to remind the reader, that Col. de Villars was the first who described the sort of bougie,

bougie, which Monf. Daran brought to a proper pliability and resistance; but as all improvements are still open to some imperfections, thus it stands with the bougies in present use; they are very deficient in perviating the obstructions. When first the patient applies for the care of a surgeon, if the obstruction be so very great that the urine cannot be permitted to pass but drop by drop, and that not at regular times, but continually as from a leaky vessel, and when upon the committing any intemperance a total suppression ensues, whatever method of treatment bids fairer to pass over these obstructions, and gives a free egress to the urine, and that almost immediately, I presume will be thought an improvement worth the attention of the diseased, there being no complaint more painful, more acute, or more instantaneously dangerous. The evils that attend the bougies, when made small, are, that they have not sufficient force to make their way through the obstructions, that they immediately bend and become useless, being wanting of a proper elasticity. If they are compounded of materials that serve to stiffen them and give more resistance, they then become too brittle to be used at all with safety. This is the real situation in which the bougies of present use are

are found; I mean only when they are applied to overcome the first obstructions; and though to prove effectual they should immediately make way through the obstruction, yet sometimes they are weeks, nay months in effecting it. With regard to the larger bougies, when once the obstruction is perviated, and one of them can pass with ease, those used in common, with the addition of Mons. Goulard's improvement, undoubtedly bid the fairest to confirm a cure. And few there are that will not be recovered of this grievous complaint, when the skill of the surgeon and the regularity of the patient go hand in hand.

Amongst all the English authors from the beginning of the venereal disease in Europe to the present hour, no one has made a clearer distinction of the separate diseases of the Urethra, and laid down a better plan for success in the removal of them than Mr. Sharp; with the temper and penetration of a man of genius, he carries his enquiries through all the several causes of obstruction, and gives them their separate definitions. The theory of Mr. Sharp, in his critical enquiries, will be found so perfectly to coincide with my own, that it would be fruitless to say more of it, as far as relates
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to the causes of obstruction ; I shall therefore proceed to consider the imperfection of the bougie, as it appears in his description on the first introduction of it only. Besides the inconvenience that I pointed out before of the small bougie being too weak for resistance in a pliable state, and too brittle in a more stiff one, I shall produce other objections to the primary use of it from a quotation of Mr. Sharp.

He says, “ There are a great many whose
 “ disorder is so desperate as to render them
 “ unfit for every other business than that of
 “ their cure : I have had several of them un-
 “ der my care, who wore the bougie almost
 “ the whole time, night and day without in-
 “ termission, as they withdrew one, introdu-
 “ cing another ; and if it does not stimulate
 “ too much by this constant application, it is
 “ certainly a prudent step ; for the more sup-
 “ puration is procured, and the longer the
 “ Urethra is kept distended, the more likely
 “ it is that the cure will be radical.”

The too general obstructions that hinder the passage of the bougie through the Urethra, being the carnosity and callous stricture, it ap-

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pears

pears hence necessary, from the use of these bougies, that they must bring the one or the other to a state of suppuration before they can perviate or get over them, and before the larger ones can gain admittance home to the neck of the bladder. Now I would wish to enforce to the candid enquirer, that this suppuration which is brought on for the cure of a carnosity or stricture, is totally from a necessity that the bougie may pass home into the bladder, but not a requisite in the removal of either. The suppuration in this instance takes place, because the bougie cannot make its way without it; but that does not at all argue, that it should take place in order to effect a cure. Where there is a suppuration, there is great pain and confinement; and if a bougie can be so far conducive to an effectual cure without these inconveniencies, the sole purpose of this little work will be answered.

After having thus given a short sketch of the ancient methods that were taken to cure the urethral obstructions brought on by the venereal disease, and continued them up to the present time, I shall proceed to an enquiry into the cause of an habitual Strangury, in which I shall

shall not be found to vary much from Dr. Astruc, Mr. Sharp, and some others, whose works plainly evince, that they are not written by the hand of prejudice; they moved in a more laudable and generous sphere, with a conscious pleasure of conveying to the public the ideas of true science and indefatigable attention. Passing over a strangury that may be brought on by a stone in the bladder, or in the Urethra, or that which may be produced by an ulcer in the bladder, or on the neck of it, unconnected with venereal virulency, I shall proceed in my description to that from virulent obstructions. The strongest symptom of an habitual strangury is a diminution of the stream of urine, which makes its way through the penis, sometimes in a small single stream, but oftener in two, and sometimes in many scattered and confused streams, and sometimes drop by drop, and that incontinently, the patient all the while straining unnaturally, tedious in the expulsion of his urine, often having a throbbing on the glans penis, and a frequent desire to make water from a stimulus brought on by over-straining, which produces great uneasiness. Whenever a due regularity is exceeded either in diet, exercise, watching, venery, or what else, where the body is inflamed, or the

passions are agitated, a total ischury, or suppression of the urine often ensues, accompanied by symptoms very painful, alarming, and sometimes fatal. The complaint is then become too serious and too acute for delay, recourse must immediately be had to bleeding in large quantities where the subject will bear it, fomentations, and above all opium in repeated large doses, and clysters with laudanum. It will be in vain to attempt the passage of the catheter, as the introduction of the smallest substance will be denied until a proper relaxation is brought on by the means above described. Purgatives ought to be used with great caution, as they are apt to excite thirst, and to increase the heat and stimulus on the part already in a state of inflammation. Diluents should not be dealt out with too much liberality in this complaint, as they will increase the urinal secretion, the warm bath will amply supply their stead, without their ill consequence. A repetition of the above means generally operates successfully, but sometimes it is found ineffectual. When, at the expiration of three days, or according to the indication of the symptoms, the use of these means have proved fruitless, and the patient continues in unremitting pain, delay will be dangerous. A puncture must be made

made into the bladder, and the urine drawn away, observing to keep the canula in the opening of the bladder made by the puncture, till such time as a passage is obtained per urethram, and the bladder has recovered its contractile power, which is often rendered paralytic by over distension. After having overcome the violence of the above symptoms, they are again and again liable to return as the patient breaks out into farther intemperance, whilst the urethral obstruction remains unobviated. The bars in the Urethra, which prevent the urine passing in a full stream, are distinguished into seven species; first, the caruncle or fungus, arising from a degenerated ulcer, where a part of the internal membrane of the Urethra is destroyed; second, a callous stricture or hard contraction of the Urethra, from a former ulcer cicatrized; third, callous ulcers ill digested, yielding various coloured discharges from any part of the Urethra, or excretory ducts of the prostate gland or seminal vesicles; fourth, an enlargement of the verumontanum, intruding too far into the Urethra; fifth, an ulcer or scirrhus of the prostate or vesiculæ seminales; sixth, a sponginess of the same parts; and seventh, ligamentary bands from the inosculation of ulcers in opposition to each other around the

the urethral canal.—The caruncle is a spongy fleshy substance, intruding into the Urethra, whereby it hinders the free passage of urine, capable of enlarging from any thing that may irritate and inflame it, produced from an ulcer in consequence of a gonorrhœa, as any other fungus on the external surface of the body: it appears in some subjects almost immediately after the gonorrhœal symptoms are over, and authors have affirmed, that in others months, nay years after a contracted gonorrhœa, the caruncle has been found to produce its first effect; but I am apt to conclude, that in the latter case it is more probable that the disease is a contracted Urethra, and not a fungus. The existence of a caruncle or fungus in the Urethra has been a bone for contention amongst the French surgeons, particularly Dionis, de la Faye, and some others, who could never discover the least trace of a caruncle in the Urethra after death, where subjects had fallen victims to a venereal strangury; but their opponents weighed them down by truth and argument, and there are few now that deny the reality of a caruncle, however they differ in the definition of it.

Monf.

Monf. Goulard, in his very ingenious treatise on his favourite invention, the Extractum Saturni, does not deny the existence of a caruncle, but defines it so different from all other authors, that he appears to have given part of the same name to another disease ; by a very metaphysical way of arguing he tells you, that the spongy substance of the Urethra is confined within its proper bounds as nature has placed it, by means of the internal urethral membrane antagonizing it. This being the case in a state of health, when the internal urethral membrane becomes enfeebled at any certain point, there the spongy substance opposite to that point resists the fibres, which give way, distend, lengthen, and are pushed forward into the cavity of the canal : from whence arises a little tumour that he calls a spongyous carnosity. What gave rise to this supposition of Monf. Goulard was, the difficulty he found in accounting for the existence of a fleshy substance in the Urethra, where nothing like flesh in the natural situation of these parts is to be perceived : “ *Car, en premier lieu, le mot de*
 “ *carnosité, pris dans son etymologie, n'exprime*
 “ *autre chose qu'une excroissance charnue, ou une*
 “ *élévation formée par des chairs fongueuses : or,*
 “ *personne a-t-il jamais démontré dans le canal*
 de

“ de l’Uretré quelque partie charnue qui puisse
 “ donner naissance à ces sortes d’excroissances et
 “ de fongosités ? Il est donc certain que les car-
 “ nosités de l’Uretré, en prenant la chose à la
 “ rigueur des termes, comme il est important de
 “ le pratiquer en médecine et en chirurgie,
 “ n’existent que dans l’imagination.” To dissent
 from so ingenious and valuable an author as
 Mons. Goulard, without giving my reasons,
 would be very unfair, and productive of no
 good ; therefore I will put in my objections to
 his theory of the existence of a carnosity but
 in the imagination ; and here I am sorry to
 find, that the above author has lost sight of a
 principle in surgery, as invariable as the rising
 of the sun or any other common course of na-
 ture. We all know in a state of health that
 a bone is covered with a membrane, where no
 flesh intrudes, and where there appears nothing
 of the property of flesh ; but when once this
 bone becomes diseased, and an exfoliation takes
 place, the first appearances that constantly offer
 are granulations on the part : or, when the
 throat be cut, the cartilage divided never unites,
 but the chasm is often filled up with granu-
 lations of flesh. Mons. Goulard must allow,
 that the natural appearance of the conjunctive
 coat of the eye is as void of flesh as the Ure-
 thra ;

thra; but when this membrane is attacked with a venereal ophthalmia in particular, does it not produce a quantity of fungus? If there be no fleshy substance naturally in the Urethra, he must allow, that there are blood-vessels; and granting that, whenever the part has been diseased the fungus may follow.

The callous stricture obtains, where there has been one or more large ulcers in the Urethra, which are entirely healed, yielding no discharge, sometimes accompanied with a schirrhosity of the adjacent parts. These ulcers having healed without the intervention of any internal application to keep the diseased part of the Urethra from contracting, lessen the diameter of it. This sort of stricture is deprived of the secretion the rest of the Urethra naturally enjoys; as the patient advances in age the callosity thickens, and, aided by the natural disposition of a cicatrix formed from a malignant ulcer, will, without some preventive means, tend to the closing up the canal. It is the opinion of the learned Mr. Sharp, that a cicatrix on any part of the body acquires the disposition to contract in proportion to the neglect of a counter-resistance; as when the palm of the hand be burnt, if the fingers

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during

during the cure are not extended by means of a pasteboard, or some such proper substance, the contracting power of the cicatrix will inevitably clinch the fingers.

Callous ulcers ill digested and yielding various coloured discharges from any parts of the Urethra, or the excretory ducts of the prostate gland, or seminal vesicles. These ulcers remain after a gonorrhœa, where it has been neglected or ill cured, almost always attended with a hardness around them, which is easily to be felt by the fingers externally, the discharge from them is more or less, and kindly or malignant, in proportion to the habit of the patient or manner of his living. The farther they are seated up the Urethra, the more liable they are to bring on an ischury, upon any intemperance whatever. Sometimes the discharge from them has all the marks of a virulent recent gonorrhœa, both as to colour and quantity, the ulcers then being in a state of inflammation, the ardor urinæ will be also a symptom, and often accompanied with blood. The most powerful distinction betwixt the aggravated appearances of a callous ulcer and recent gonorrhœa that I can suggest is, that the inflammatory symptoms of the former will give

give way much sooner than the latter; but the discharge from the ulcers will scarce ever cease until some applicable remedy comes into contact with them. It has been disputed, whether the discharge from these ulcers carry with it any venereal infection, many surgeons are inclined to think it does not; but the very doubt should induce me to caution the patient from depending on the innocence of the discharge, at least I will venture to affirm, that although the generality of those ulcers may not be infectious, yet some are, which will not yield to topical applications without the aid of internal alteratives.

The enlargement of the verumontanum is also a cause of the urethral obstruction. This part, like the rest of the Urethra, is frequently inflamed and ulcerated, or eroded in a virulent gonorrhœa, and when the inflammation is not totally reduced, and the ulcer effectually deterged, it will degenerate into a warty fungus or callous substance, which will obstruct the urine in proportion to the quantity of either, and the manner of life the patient adopts.

Whenever in a virulent gonorrhœa an intense ardor urinæ is felt near the anus, it is

beyond a doubt a token of the disease having reached the excretory ducts of the prostate gland and vesiculæ seminales; when, if those parts have been frequently injured by repeated gonorrhœas, or if in the attempt to a cure they have been improperly treated, the disease will make a destructive progress; hence fistulous and callous ulcers and scirrhosities both of the gland and vesiculæ seminales. The seat of the disease being so remote, there becomes a difficulty of applying effectual remedies, and it often happens that a fistula in ano joins in the event. In such a situation, they cannot fail of being a certain cause of obstructing the urine.

Or, where venereal ulcers have eroded and destroyed any of the substance of the prostate or parts adjacent, a luxuriant fungus will often sprout up there, and in such quantity as to be also a cause of obstructing the urine.

Lastly, Mr. Sharp has discovered by dissections, that where ulcers have been nearly in opposition to each other in the Urethra, they have inosculated, and produced bands which crossed from one to the other, and are consequently a cause of obstructing the urine.

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Thus is the current of urine lessened and obstructed by one of the causes above described; the same may be said also of the semen; therefore neither of them can pass through the Urethra, retaining their free and proper course, but are obstructed in proportion to the obstacles they meet in it. The diameter of the urinal passage being lessened, a greater force becomes requisite for the expulsion of the urine; hence the patient will strain and increase the effort according to the resistance the urine finds in the Urethra: the stream of urine pressing hard against the obstruction in the Urethra will be divided in its passage through it; these divisions intersect each other, and preserving their separate courses, pass out in two or more, and sometimes in scattered, confused streams, and those weak and dripping, from a well-known principle in physics, that a fluid passing from a narrow canal into a wider, will move proportionably flow to the narrowness of the canal from whence it flowed; hence the urine no longer describes that arch, when it is discharged, as it formerly did, where the passage was uniformly equal. Whenever from intemperance or any other cause the urine becomes heated, it will excite a pain in the obstructed part of the Urethra, from whence a frequent or perpetual

petual dysuria is found to be a concomitant to obstructions. The sensation of pain being produced from the nerves, and those of the Urethra being so intimately connected with the nerves of the bladder, a constriction of the neck of the bladder will be brought on by sympathy; the bladder will empty itself, not in a continued stream and at distant periods, but will be frequently soliciting a discharge; the urine will be forced away, with much straining, in very small quantities, and in very quick successions; the neck of the bladder, from the irritation, will become exquisitely sensible, and yield great pain with every drop of water. If a dysuria is brought on by inflamed ulcers of the verumontanum, or prostrate, or vesiculæ seminales, the pus flowing from the ulcers will generally follow the expulsion of the urine, and that in increased quantities and thinner than in common; but if the obstruction is caused from caruncles or scirrhoties, no other discharge will follow but mucus from the Urethra and neck of the bladder.

The ultimate evils attending the several obstructions in the Urethra commonly appear after the patient has for some time discovered a diminution of his stream of urine; therefore

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it is no wonder, that he is often found dilatory in taking any step towards obtaining relief; he seldom resigns himself to the care of his surgeon as long as he continues free of any complaint that subjects him to danger; when he has been once snatched from the imminent symptoms of an ischury, he is always glad to embrace the opportunity of undergoing a radical cure. I shall now proceed to lay down a method for effecting this, as the ischury will always threaten a return upon every excess that may be afterwards committed, or even from any accidental cause, as long as the obstruction in the Urethra is suffered to remain; and here I feel myself particularly interested, from a certain conviction of the rectitude of the measure I shall adopt, that it overweighs with me all arguments in favour of the bougies in present use, so far as they are made the instrument of overcoming the obstruction in the first stage of a cure. Those in the practice of surgery, as well as those who have submitted to the use of a bougie, know that the first attempts of passing it beyond the obstruction will prove ever impossible; they also know, that this passage is obtained by repeatedly introducing fresh bougies up to the part of the Urethra where the obstruction is, and there con-

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fining them by some sort of contrivance, that their pressure against the obstruction may suppurate it and melt it down; and it is with submission that I presume no surgeon, tender of his reputation, would be hardy enough to apply a bougie that was solely to act by suppuration, as it appears to me an utter impossibility that a bougie, uniformly compounded of suppurative materials, can remain in the Urethra without doing as much violence to the sound part of it as to the diseased; the consequence of which would be more distressing than if the disease had been left to its natural event. Without having recourse to physical argument, I will speak to the experience and reason of every individual, who knows that no part of the human body is more susceptible, none more irritable: it is that susceptibility of the Urethra that yields such titulation in its natural state, and so much pain when irritated by any foreign or accidental cause.

From hence I would wish charitably to conclude, that the bougies which are termed suppurative, only bring about that effect by their pressure on the obstruction, by so far impeding the circulation in the diseased part, as to induce it to slough away. It must be allowed, that

that in a series of time these means will prevail, and a cure will be effected; but it must be allowed also, that it will be tediously brought about; and as it will be made to appear, that this suppuration is an unnecessary act, so far as it is applicable to a cure, so must it be accompanied with pain both injudicious and wanton. As I, before observed of the bougies in present use, when they are made small in order to pass over the obstruction so as to act upon it, by pressing down the sides of it, they are both wanting in elasticity and resistance; in elasticity, as immediately when they are passed home to the obstruction they break and become useless; in resistance, from their rare success whenever an attempt is made to pass them: they stop where it is only necessary for them to begin; for did they but once overcome the obstruction, that pressure would turn to the proper account and answer all the purposes that human wisdom would wish. Mr. Sharp allows that the cure of a caruncle is often effected by pressure only, and that suppuration seldom takes place, where the bougie only passes to the obstruction, and not beyond it: he conceives also, that the callous cicatrix loses of its contractile power by being kept upon the stretch.

If the body be in a good state of health, free of the venereal taint, a bougie of the most simple sort will deterge and heal an ulcer in the Urethra, when brought into contact with it, as will diachylon plaister on any part of the body where there is no malignant cause to prevent it. As to the incrustations upon ulcers, which Mons. Daran treats of, in a part disposed so much to humidity, and continually washed by urine, uninfluenced by air, I believe these seldom obtain. Thus far it appears that the suppurative power of the bougie, as well as the necessity of it, is or ought always to be out of the question; and that when an increased discharge follows a suppurative bougie, it is in consequence of the irritation it brings on all the urethral membrane, and of the pressure of it against the obstruction. In order to obviate these unnecessary effects my wish is, when first I go about a cure, to pass up the Urethra the smallest catgut, so far medicated as to do no mischief by an asperity of the point of it; this seldom or never fails gaining a passage home to the bladder, when necessary means have been previously taken to prepare the patient by temperance in eating, drinking, and exercise, and by a use of the warm bath. Granting that the urine is only discharged drop
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by drop, the catgut by being medicated, and by the precautions above laid down, will prove successful. And although a cure is still to be effected, yet, upon drawing the first of these bougies from the Urethra, the urine will come away almost in the natural stream, and every alarming and dangerous symptom will be hereafter dismissed; another is immediately introduced without pain or difficulty; by the humidity of the Urethra the catgut becomes pliant, so that the progress of cure is not retarded, or are the parts the least incommoded, whether by erections of the penis in the night, or by moderate exercises indulged in the day. Other properties of the medicated catgut bougie are, that, from the elasticity of it, it is neither too weak to resist, or does it lose of its power by bending on an attempt to introduce it. In quality it is simple and innocent, and possessed of the power of swelling, when moistened as the medicated sponge is, without any sensible effect or ill consequence whatever; it brings away no other discharge than what the natural secretion affords, and dilates the obstructions without pain, and effectually: neither is it found to irritate the urethral membrane or neck of the bladder, so as to bring on those solicitations of urine the other bougies do on their

first introduction. Upon withdrawing one of these bougies, which will be when the patient wants to urine, another is passed of a degree larger, and the size is continually increased, until a free choice offers of introducing any other species of bougie of what size and of what property soever. This may be effected by diligent perseverance in the course of a few days, and at the end of that time, without inflammation or suppuration, the grand obstacles will be surmounted, and the way will be paved for confirming a solid cure.

When once an ischury is got over, it rarely happens that a patient can be in a worse state than in that of the urine coming away drop by drop: a fistulous opening might have been made through some part of the perinæum, which I leave to be treated as laid down by others that have written on the same complaint. As I would wish to advance nothing but facts, I am, upon that principle, at liberty to declare, that be the obstruction in any part of the Urethra, so that the urine is only discharged in the smallest proportion, the medicated catgut has never failed overcoming it, and that almost immediately. Mons. le Dran recommends the use of the catgut bougie in the beginning

ginning of a cure, and gives it the preference over all other methods. I cannot think how his practice, in this instance, came to be neglected, unless it was because its simplicity brought it into disgrace, it not being enveloped with any thing dark or mysterious: like the dog and the shadow, the surgeons plunged themselves into doubts in search after Mons. Daran's secret, of imaginary value, and left a possession Mons. le Dran had laid down for them. I will here furnish the reader with an answer to a case given in for the opinion of Mons. le Dran: "A man of fifty years old, " having supped in company, drank a little " more than ordinary, is attacked in the night " with a suppression of urine, and immedi- " ately has resource to you: note, that he " had a clap in his youth, in the cure of " which he made use of drying injections. " He has been cured a long while; neverthe- " less he has perceived, that ever since that " time the stream of urine was somewhat " smaller than before. What is to be done?" Answer, "As this new distemper is probably " occasioned by a phlogosis, or inflammation " of the neck of the bladder, the patient " should immediately have the catheter intro- " duced, that the bladder may not lose its " power

“ power of contraction by the filling and dis-
 “ tension of it. Soon after he should be bled
 “ twice or thrice, at some distant hours, to
 “ take off the swelling at the neck of the
 “ bladder: but according to the account of the
 “ patient’s manner of making water, previous
 “ to this new complaint, it is possible that the
 “ catheter cannot be passed far into the Ure-
 “ thra, as probably it may become narrower
 “ at the bulb, or the neck; or possibly the
 “ prostate being swelled, and perhaps infla-
 “ med, may form an obstacle to the introduc-
 “ tion of the catheter into the bladder. On this
 “ supposition, the first thing to be done, while
 “ endeavours are used to abate the inflamma-
 “ tion, must be, if possible, to make a passage
 “ for the catheter by enlarging the canal by
 “ the use of bougies capable of dilating it.
 “ For this purpose, those made of catgut seem
 “ to be most proper, because, though very
 “ small, they will not soften in the canal by
 “ the heat of the part, as those do which are
 “ made of taffeta or linen: they will likewise
 “ swell with the moisture, which the others
 “ will not do, and by this means increasing
 “ their thickness will dilate the passage with-
 “ out violence or uneasiness to the patient; in
 “ such a case as this, it is sometimes a long
 “ while

“ while before the bougie can be passed as far
 “ as the neck of the bladder; consequently,
 “ if it be made of waxed linen or taffeta, it
 “ will be heated and softened so that it will
 “ bend, and not be stiff enough to open the
 “ passage to the neck of the bladder; but the
 “ catgut ones are a long time before they grow
 “ soft.”

Monf. le Dran has favoured us with four cases more, and all with the strongest recommendations of the above means; neither does he think any other sort of bougie necessary even to the confirmation of a cure. But as I would not be seen to strip the coat of all its lace, I shall be content with having shewed the preference and utility of the medicated catgut bougie in first overcoming the obstruction, and shall now proceed with a method for effecting a cure.

Upon withdrawing a medicated catgut of a large degree, a bougie will be permitted to pass with the greatest ease, and with the supposition that the cause of obstruction be a caruncle only, nothing more remains than to prevent that again from protruding in the Urethra so as to bring on a return of the dysury. To do this
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I would recommend the use of a stiff bougie, capable of resistance, and compounded of the most simple materials; to which I would add a requisite quantity of Mons. Goulard's extract; the proportion of which is about half an ounce in a dozen bougies. As the expectation of a cure only depends upon a pressure on the caruncle, which, in conjunction with a medicine possessed of the desiccative property of the *Extractum Saturni*, will so far collapse the vessels and wither the substance of the caruncle, as to be in effect equal to its extirpation; and I cannot help thinking, that Mons. Goulard himself has been mistaken in the effect of his extract, as he attributes its success to a suppurative power and not to a ficcative one; which of these two properties preparations of lead, in all their various forms, essentially enjoy, I believe few people conversant in chymistry will hesitate to determine. If there be a discharge of pus from ulcers, whether fistulous or not, in the Urethra, together with a diminution of the stream of urine, there will be generally scirrhosities felt along the under part of the penis and perinæum: when these tumours are suffered to remain, it will be in vain to expect a radical cure; whether the matter issuing from them be infectious or not, they must be dissolved before

Before either the discharge of pus will cease, or the obstruction will be effectually removed. Whilst by means of the medicated catgut bougie the Urethra is kept properly dilated, the patient should sit over a steam of hot water once a day, for half an hour, and during that time anoint the perinæum, where the scirrhus tumours are to be felt, with a small quantity of the unguentum coeruleum fortius, and for his better security he should for some time continue in the use of such mercurial alteratives, and in such proportion, as will neither bring on a spitting or purging; and I believe it will invariably be found, that these obstructions by the above means will be reduced, and the discharge from the ulcers cease without the pain, the mischief, or confinement from the suppurative bougie; the catgut alone in this case will suffice, as by the reduction of the scirrhus tumours the ulcer becomes kindly, and the cause of discharge of pus and the obstruction cease. When a diminution of the stream of urine is brought on by a callous cicatrix, if there be no hardness felt externally from a tumour accompanying it, nothing more is requisite than the above treatment for the cure of a caruncle, as the whole will consist in opposing the inclination to contract. And it may be said of the

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ligamentary bands that cross the Urethra, and that are produced from ulcers inosculating with each other, that the bougie composed of the extract of lead will be the very best application that can be suggested for wasting and shrinking that substance so as to remove all inconvenience from it. From hence I presume to conclude, that suppuration brought on by bougies is not necessary for a cure, or can it be made good by any theory, however fashionable it has been to suppose so. It is a work done by the hand of severity when put into practice, where a more rational and humane method will succeed. —I must not omit observing, that I think the public owe a good deal to Mons. Goulard for his excellent preparation of the Extractum Saturni; amongst the rest of its qualities, a dilution of it with water I have repeatedly found successful in obstinate gleets that had triumphed over every other endeavour.

C A S E I.

A gentleman who got an infectious gonorrhoea three years ago, and had immediately made application to one of the faculty, never from that time was free of a discharge of a little quantity of pus from the penis, which would be sometimes more and sometimes less, as he launched out into irregularities, or adhered to temperance. He perceived his stream of urine considerably to lessen, to come from him forked and irregular, and had not altogether a voluntary power over it: at last, whenever from any particular occasion he made too free, a total suppression would ensue. In one of these paroxysms I first saw him, for which I was obliged to bleed him immoderately, and direct him to the warm bath, which relieved him; but the suppression of his urine returned with every excess. He became alarmed on both sides on the danger of his situation, if he should be from town, where perhaps he could not conveniently have the necessary help upon so emergent an occasion, and on the bad effects such severe evacuations made use of during the suppression would bring on his constitution. Thinking his case then too serious to be neglected,

glected, he desired I would pursue every method radically to relieve him. I began with the application of the bougie in common use, and found by the introduction of one of them, that the obstruction was within half an inch of the neck of the bladder. I made several efforts at distant periods to pass the smallest, those of a middle size, and the largest over the obstruction; I availed myself of the advantage whilst he was in the warm bath, and immediately upon his coming out of it, to no purpose: I then left the bougies, as I had been taught, to work their own way by keeping them as tight as I could to the obstruction; this was continued for near three months without the least progress. The gentleman was too much engaged in business to give up any time through the course of the day: at last he began to sicken at the means I had hitherto taken, and wished for some other. He then returned to the warm bath for some repeated times, and upon the very first attempt a medicated small catgut passed into the bladder; the unguentum coeruleum was applied externally as near to the seat of obstruction as could be judged: he visited the warm bath two or three times a week, and continued in the use of the medicated catgut, gradually increasing the size, about two months,

months, which was all that was done to perfect the cure. It is eight months ago: he continues to urinate in a full stream, and is as free from any urethral complaint, as if he had not known any.

C A S E II.

A gentleman, who eight years ago received an infectious gonorrhœa just upon the brink of his making a voyage, so far neglected himself as ever since to be troubled with a most obstinate discharge, and that in large quantities as from a recent virulent affair, and since, from what I could collect from his recapitulation, he has been twice or thrice injured in the same manner. From the first his stream of urine began to lessen, and he has gradually found an increased difficulty in the expulsion of it. As often as he arrived in England he put himself under the care of some surgeon, and at the first generally succeeded in passing the bougies; but from a natural inattention he never prosecuted any means for a perfect recovery. For the last two years he has in vain attempted the introduction of the bougie; it was always with the most unnatural efforts and strainings I ever saw,

saw, that he could make his water. Upon his application to me I remonstrated on the danger of his situation; that so corpulent a man, who fed very high, would with all the exertions of skill run a great risk of his life, if he should be attacked with an inflammation so as to bring on a suppression of his urine, and more so whilst on the water, that there his fate would be inevitable. He went into the warm bath repeatedly, and the unguentum coeruleum was applied externally along the penis and perinaeum; he was bled also. The smallest catgut found a passage into the bladder on the first introduction; there proved to be three obstructions, one a little way up the Urethra, the others at the distance of about an inch and a half from each other farther on. Upon his withdrawing the first he made his water with more happiness than he had for two years; a larger was immediately introduced and the size graduated. Within four days the stream was natural, and he could himself pass a bougie of any size. His hour of departure was come: he was furnished with such bougies as I have before described to perfect the cure, and also with the medicated catguts, in case from his omission he should be obliged to have recourse to them again; he also was desired to continue
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In the use of the unguentum, to sit over hot water, and took with him some mercurial alteratives, as almost the whole length of the Urethra was thickened and hardened.

C A S E III.

A waiter at a coffee-house applied to me for an obstruction in the Urethra that had grown to a dangerous height, and not from any negligence of himself, but because he implicitly relied on an apothecary in his neighbourhood, who had given him medicines by the mouth only for a series of time. I found him in a piteous state; the passage was so narrow, that he only discharged his urine drop by drop, not at any particular time, but constantly as he walked about. He found his constitution very much impaired by this suppression, and it was the harder upon him, in that he was obliged to sit up late at night, and could not, at the hazard of his place, lie by in order to expedite his cure. Thus situated he applied to me; I passed a small catgut, after endeavouring in vain to pass the smallest of the common constructed bougies, and persevered in their use until I had gained a desirable opening, where I per-

I perfected a cure in the course of three months by the daily use of bougies moulded into the same form of those in general, but compounded of materials which I have experienced, by the multitude of opportunities that have arisen to me within these three years, to be the safest and best calculated, not only to remove the obstructions, but to prevent their return.

C A S E IV.

A remarkable corpulent man applied to me for an obstruction that had been coming on for many years, and as he had felt the dreadful effects of two severe fits of the ischury, he was anxious of removing the imminent danger that every day threatened his life; he had been under a surgeon of this town, famed for the use and application of the common bougies, who found himself foiled for the very same reason I have given in the foregoing pages, there not being a possibility of passing a bougie of that construction through an orifice so small and deep situated as was this I now speak of. I lowered his general habit by the warm bath, bleeding, &c. and made a successful attempt; but upon withdrawing the first catgut bougie I found

I found myself disappointed in the second, and it was not until three days after I could succeed again, owing, I conjectured, to the irritation of the parts; I took care to pass the third immediately after withdrawing the second; and it must be observed, that in this period of the cure, there should be as little intermediate time as possible betwixt the withdrawing one bougie and passing the other. By this perseverance and increasing their size I succeeded to my astonishment, and it was but a few days before I could pass one of my common constructed bougies, which perfected a cure in the course of three months. From observation I have experienced, that there is some difficulty in passing through the narrowest obstructions, even this catgut bougie and its success depend in a great measure upon practice, which all know is the only guide for facilitating difficulties; Mons. le Dran had convinced me that it could be done, therefore it remained my duty and interest to endeavour to do it, and my success has shewn that I have not failed. And I farther observe, that I never make use of this species of bougie where my others will do; I try the smallest of the other sort first, and if after every endeavour I do not succeed, it is then I have recourse to the catgut sort.

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C A S E V.

A gentleman went ten years ago to be under the care of Mons. Daran to Paris, for an obstruction, and after remaining there six weeks came away so much relieved as to think himself perfectly recovered. Within these last three years he perceived a gradual diminution of his stream of urine, and at last it became so small as to reduce him to the necessity of applying to me; upon trial I found I could not pass my common bougie; I then prepared him in the warm bath, and passed one of my catgut bougies. I attended him very diligently for two days, when I had gained so considerable an opening as to encourage him in persevering in their use. He afterwards passed them himself, and preferred them to any other sort, because he could walk and lie more at his ease with them. He continued them for two months, and half a year afterwards renewed their use, and as far as I know is perfectly recovered.—I must observe, that when an obstruction is of long standing, and becomes habitual (as there is a greater rigidity in the constitution of a person advanced in years, the parts being less moist and less liable to undergo any alteration) the

the patient should compound with the removal of the dangerous part of the symptoms, and when he finds a passage hath been gained so as to admit of a large bougie, he should constantly be watchful that there be no return of the complaint. To obviate this with the least trouble to himself, and to remove all anxiety, he may pass one of my common large bougies once a week, and let it remain an hour or two.

C A S E VI.

A gentleman from the East Indies applied to me, after having used other bougies, for an obstruction he had very near to the neck of the bladder, accompanied by a hardness externally to be felt along the perinæum; he told me that he had been in constant use of bougies for two years, but did not find that the passage was at all enlarged notwithstanding, if he forebore the wearing of them for any time. I convinced him, that he could not expect a perfect cure whilst the schirrosity on the perinæum remained. He submitted to the application of the vapour-bath to the part, which, together with the use of a small quantity of unguent. cœrul. fort. and my common bougies, the scirrhus was dis-

solved, and the obstruction removed in the course of six weeks.

C A S E VII.

A field officer in America upon his embarkation applied to me on account of an obstruction, through which he could not pass a common bougie, notwithstanding he had been attended by an eminent surgeon in this metropolis; he introduced my catgut bougies himself, and continued in the use of them after his arrival at America, and when he had exhausted his first stock, he wrote home for more, declaring that the success of those had exceeded his expectation, and that he did not doubt but that he should be effectually cured, when time served him for the constant application of others.

C A S E VIII.

A gentleman of one of the universities applied to me for an obstruction brought on very rapidly after a first gonorrhœa; this was a very uncommon circumstance in a subject twenty-one years of age, and led me to enquire into the
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the manner of his having been treated. I found that he had been very liberally purged, and that the running had continued on him for upwards of six months; it was with the greatest difficulty I could pass the smallest of my common bougies; but I at length succeeded, and by a continual repetition of them for two months the discharge ceased, and the obstruction was removed.

C A S E IX.

A servant of a nobleman applied to me for a complaint in the Urethra that he had laboured under for six years, and had, on account of the secrecy that he made of his case, undergone many difficulties and much pain, especially when he irritated the parts by riding post, not only in his attendance on his master through the continent, but in his journeys from town to country. He through diffidence would not apply to his master's surgeon, but put himself under the care of a foreign quack, who had loaded him with violent forcing medicines, and had as much endangered his constitution as he had drained his pocket. From a robust stout fellow he was reduced to a hypochondriac

pochondriac staking object; his complaint yielded to my common bougies, and in the course of three months he could pass the largest of them.

C A S E X.

I shall subjoin one case of a venereal caries; it was of a naval officer, who was attacked at sea with pains in his bones, and a caries succeeded to it of the upper jaw; his upper fore teeth were loose, the palate ulcerated; he came home, after having most liberally used mercurials in all forms, full of pains, the caries spreading on the upper jaw, his bones of his legs and arms enlarged, distracted with pain at night, offensive breath, and emaciated beyond conception. I advised him milk diet, and farfa decoction; a drachm of the coeruleum only was rubbed on his legs weekly, and the free use of the vapour-bath; his pains gradually abated, his flesh and spirits recovered, the caries of the jaw exfoliated, and the enlarged bones returned to a sound state. I have still the satisfaction to find that he continues as healthy as if nothing had ever happened to him.

OBSER-

OBSERVATION.

It appeared to me from this case, and it also hath before been instanced to my conviction, that when there is a mixture in the habit of scurvy with virus (venereal) how difficult the extirpation of it is, and what ravage the disease commits, and that the effect of mercurials when the blood is broken down, its texture that constitutes health is dissolved, and the whole system emaciated either by scurvy, hard drinking, or care, is very inefficacious; and until the wonted consistence of the system is restored by vapour-baths, air, and milk diet, no attempt to extirpate the virus will succeed, or will the caries on bones exfoliate, enlargement of bones dissolve, or the nocturnal pains produced through them be easily composed.

C A S E XI.

On the Translation of Venereal Virus from the Urethra to the Eye.

A gentleman of Scotland was recommended to me for a virulent gonorrhœa; the first time I saw him he complained also of his eye being inflamed,

inflamed, which was the second day after the disease had discovered itself. I bled him, gave him the necessary remedies for the gonorrhoea, and called on him the next day, when I found his eye more inflamed, and the inflammation of the Urethra lessened; I bled him again, fomented and poulticed the eye; the next day his pain of the eye was increased, he complained of a violent throbbing, it discharged a purulent matter, and the tunica conjunctiva was in a higher state of inflammation than I ever saw any before: I applied leeches to his temples, blisters behind the ears, injected milk and water, renewed poultices, &c. The inflammation of the Urethra by this time was perfectly abated, and little discharge appeared from it. The morning following I found his pain had not the least abated; upon raising the eyelid there was one continued fleshy appearance, which protruded so as to leave the eye half shut. The same remedies were used, such as repeated bleeding, and his medicines were nitre powders, and the mercurius calcinatus with opium. The discharge was prodigious: the inflammation not yielding to any of the general revulsive means I continued the fomentation and poultice, with the addition of Goulard's extract. The symptoms the next day not being
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the least abated I solicited a consultation; the surgeon met me the next day, and we proposed touching the carnous fungus of the conjunctiva with a fine powder of the *mercur. calcin.* mixed with pomatum by a camel brush; this increased the pain so much, that we directly desisted and returned to the former method a day or two longer, when the pain gradually abated, and the carnous appearance declined: we then gave him bark, which succeeded very well; but the issue was, that the cornea was thickened, the crystalline from inflammation became opaque, and he lost his eye. The cause of this unfortunate case was, from his having previously a weak eye he washed it with his urine, and thus conveyed the infection.

OBSERVATION.

I found no assistance in this case from any author but Astruc; Warner does not mention it in his treatise on the Eyes; Astruc is the only one who does, and he advises a total dissection away of the fleshy conjunctiva; how this is to be done whilst the patient is in such a situation I know not, but I fear the remedy would be worse than the disease. A venereal ophthalmia is common, but this is the only

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gonorrhœa of the eye that I have ever seen, or do I know any one who ever saw another.

C A S E XII.

A pawnbroker in the spring of 1784 applied to me for an obstruction in his Urethra that had been upon him for a long while; he had also a very great discharge; his water came from him drop by drop; he had been more than once attacked by an ischury; he was almost worn out by incessant efforts to urinate; he had had recourse to powerful diuretics; gin and water was his constant drink; the muscles employed in the expulsion of urine were almost reduced to a state of paralysis; his water no longer passed at stated times, but he wore about him an apparatus for the reception of it. The parts were so irritable on account of the discharge and lodgment of urine, that we were obliged to be slow, but persevering in the application of the catgut bougie, which at length succeeded, and with the catgut alone so good an opening is obtained, as to obviate all difficulty, and the patient, though indolent with regard to himself, continues in perfect ease and safety.—It must not be forgotten, that
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this patient had endeavoured, under the directions of more than one, to pass other bougies, but had failed.

C A S E XIII.

A Prostrate Case.

A grocer in this metropolis applied to me in the spring of the year 1784 with a large tumour in perinæo, accompanied with a considerable diminution of his stream of urine; he had also a good deal of running. I tried to pass a bougie, but found it too difficult; therefore for that time I desisted making any minute experiment, judging it the first and most essential office to get rid of the tumour, to which I applied the vapour-bath, unguentum cœrul. fort. and also a poultice; but the last proving troublesome I substituted a strong gum plaster; an opening external was in the course of two months obtained, from which not so much pus issued as might be expected from a prior conclusion. The urine in some quantity passed through this new aperture; I continued to keep it open by the use of precipitate in order to dissolve the tumour, whilst I endeavoured to gain a passage through the natural channel; the

the induration being softened, the catgut bougie was more enabled to pass; it proved at length successful; the tumour all subsided, and the fistulous opening healed up. I have the pleasure to say, that this gentleman is now perfectly well.

OBSERVATION.

It must be obvious to the medical reader, that this prostrate case would have baffled our endeavours, if there had not been a partial abscess and an external opening. I believe it is necessary to avail ourselves of this advantage, and that if we cannot procure an abscess by art, I should not, where a hard indolent tumour offered, and that could not be dissolved by any other means, hesitate to imitate the intention of nature by promoting an external discharge.

F I N I S.

